

APPENDIX ONE

“JOURNEY’S END”

Unveiling of the William Madison Wall Sculpture
Saturday August 10, 1996 - City Park, Heber, Utah

The Prophet Brigham Young’s great organizing ability enabled the Saints to cross the Plains and settle in Utah, not without challenges, but with less than one might have expected with people unaccustomed to such things.

The first group of Saints into the Salt Lake Valley were few in number, however, following them were thousands of Pioneers. By 1858, when Heber received its first settlers there were 62,000 members in the Church and most of them were headed for Utah.

The Pioneers needed 10-20 acres per family to grow crops and house themselves and their animals. The need and demand for farm land was great. As a consequence the Prophet sent saints south into the fertile lands of Provo Valley and surrounding areas to colonize.

This area which we now know as Wasatch Valley was at first considered too cold, to have too much snow, and too short of a growing season to be conveniently habitable. However, as Provo Valley filled up with Saints, some began to look for new places in which to settle. The first Settlers in Heber were Robert Broadhead, William Davidson and James Davis, soon followed in the Spring of 1859 by Brothers Rasband, Crook, Carroll, Carlile, Jordan, Chatwin, Bond, Giles and Carpenter. This latter group built their camp near London Spring about a mile North of Heber.

In the Spring of 1860 William Madison Wall was appointed by the Prophet to be presiding Elder in the Valley, he chose as his Counselors John M. Murdock, an uncle on my Mothers side of the family, and John M. Laird. By June there were more than 200 people living and working in Heber valley. Most were immigrants from England, where Heber C. Kimball, Counselor to President Young led the first group of Mormon missionaries. Appropriately the city was named after him.

Because of the constant threat of Indian attacks the settlers built a fort stretching from first to third west and from second to fifth north. The fort was surrounded by 66 homes and buildings with sufficient space in between each to let the livestock into and out of the fort. In July of 1860 the settlers built a building inside the fort that was 20x40 feet in size to serve as a church, school, dance hall, theater, and for community gatherings. It was built especially for the July 24th, 1860 celebration which was held there.

In subsequent years when the church was organized, William M. Wall was released from his responsibilities and permitted to return to his ranch in Wallsburg which he established in 1858.

He was the first settler in Wasatch County.

Why do we honor William Madison Wall today? Because he was a beacon of obedience, accepting and faithfully fulfilling all assignments he received from his Priesthood leaders, he was a public servant, a man of God, a friend and helper to all with whom he came into contact.

Facts concerning William Madison Wall:

He was born on 30 Sept. 1821 in Rockingham County, North Carolina, the second of 4 sons to Isaac Wall and Nancy Duncan.

His Mother died when he was seven-1828.

He moved to Sangamon County, IL with his Father and brothers-1830.

Father left children with relatives and left the state to find work. He was never heard from, but presumed to have been killed on the trail.

William was placed with a mean bond servant who mistreated him, and so he ran away.

At age 12 (1833) he was in Wayne County (Fairfield) IL skating barefoot on the ice with the children of William Haws, who learning that William had no parents, took him home to live with his family. In 1840 at the age of 19 William married Mr Haws daughter Nancy.

In 1842 The Haws and the Wall families accepted the Gospel and moved to the Nauvoo area.

In 1843 he was called by the Prophet Joseph to be President of the Branch at Ramus, IL; he was also a Lieutenant in the Nauvoo Legion.

1844 The Prophet was martyred.

1845 William was imprisoned with other church leaders; Mr Haws died; Mrs Haws moved in with the Wall's; the Wall's were driven from their home, which was burned. William escaped prison and fled with his family to Council Bluffs Iowa. There he was appointed to grow crops for saints in exodus. He helped form the Mormon Battalion.

In 1850 he was released from his responsibilities in Council Bluffs, and was appointed Captain of 50 saints in the 7th wagon train company to make their way to Utah. He caught the dreaded cholera and diarrhea while he and another volunteer helped a father bury his young daughter, who had died of cholera, and care for other family members who had it.

1850 Arrived in Salt lake Valley, but after a short stay moved on to Provo.

1852 July 17th the Church was organized in Provo with George A Smith as Stake President, and William M. Wall as Bishop of the 5th Ward and the first of the 5 Bishops to be ordained that day.

1853 April 25 as Captain of the Provo District Militia he was ordered to take 35 soldiers and travel through southern Utah to St. George to arrest any Mexicans trading in Indian Children, and to settle any Indian disturbances.

1853 Aug 6, Married second wife Elizabeth Penrod.

1853 Ordered to Fillmore to participate in their projects.

1856 April 10 he was sent to Australia where he presided over the new South Wales Mission, In May of 1857 he was called home because of the threat of war with (the United States) Johnston's army. His ship docked in San Pedro, CA, on 12 Oct. 1857 with 60 Saints aboard. William was apprehended twice by apostates and renegades, who had heard of the recent (Sept. 11, 1857) Mountain Meadow Massacre and were going to take his life since he was one of those Mormons. Due to his great courage and strength he escaped unharmed, he obtained wagons and supplies and escorted the new Australian converts to the Salt Lake and Provo valleys.

Immediately upon his return from Australia he was appointed Provo City Marshal, and Sheriff of Utah County where he found himself in big trouble keeping peace between soldiers and civilians.

1858, January 23, he married his third wife Emma Ford in Salt Lake City.

1858, June 6, President Brigham Young organized a company with William Wall in charge to construct a road, between Provo and the United States, it was to go up Provo canyon to make Heber Valley, Kamas, and other northern areas accessible. The road was in use, five months later, by November 12, that year.

1858 William established the first homestead in Wasatch County, a ranch in the mouth of Wallsburg.

1859, November 12, he married his 4th wife Susannah Gurr whom he had converted to the Gospel in Australia.

1860 he moved his families into Wallsburg and in 1862, to serve as protection against the Indians, constructed the Wall fort to house 20 families and a 20x40 foot log meeting house to serve as church, school, and social house.

1862 he became a delegate from Utah County to the Constitutional Convention meeting in Salt Lake City to prepare a constitution acceptable to the Federal Government.

1865, December 14th he married his fifth and last wife Sara Gurr sister of Susannah his fourth wife.

1866-67 Families from smaller communities moved into Heber for protection against the Indians waging, Chief Black Hawk's, War in protest of the governments attempt to move all Utah Indians into the Reservation established in Uintah in 1865. William was ordered by the Prophet to take a small band of troops and 100 cattle and other gifts to Chief Tabby in Duchesne to obtain his promise of peace. He was successful.

The last two years of William's life were spent in developing his farm in Wallsburg and in improving the road in Provo Canyon.

While in Provo Canyon working on the road, he became very ill, and died on the 18th of September, 1869, twelve days short of his 48th birthday. Thus a great career came to an end. He made major accomplishments throughout his life. He was a pioneer, soldier, peace officer, missionary, bishop, legislator, peace-maker, settler, construction-engineer, and most important an excellent husband and father to five wives and 30 children.

A good leader is dependent upon good followers, who will work for the common cause. Heber was full of such people who did what they were asked to do and more. This is why we take so much pride today in honoring these early settlers, William Madison Wall, and the subsequent Heber City movers and shakers, who have made this such an ideal place to live, raise a family, and practice the Gospel.

SOURCES:

1. William Madison Wall-"His Life and Family" compiled by Garth Meham.
2. Under Wasatch Skies-compiled by Leslie S. Raty
3. How Beautiful Upon the Mountains-compiled by William James Mortimer for the Wasatch County DUP